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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 75% Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain Sensex 83,432 | Nifty 25,461 | Gold 98,730 | Silver 1,10,000 | Dollar 85.39 | Euro 100.45 | GBP 116.77

FEVER PITCH

Nearly 70% drop in number of dengue cases till June this year as compared to same period last year, BBMP's approach praised

CITY / PAGE 2

STOP PLASTIC

Complete ban on use of plastic products — including water bottles — in all 34,165 temples under State Muzrai Dept

CITY / PAGE 4

Hundreds of warehouses that have sprung up on Bengaluru's periphery are loaded with high-value goods and even hazardous materials, but most of them don't have basic fire safety measures in place

PLAY WITH FIRE

Industrial zones witness 1,000+ blazes each year

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On the outskirts of Bengaluru, hundreds of warehouses belonging to some of India's top logistics and manufacturing companies have sprung up across key industrial zones like Peenya, Nelamangala, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, and Hoskote. These sprawling facilities serve as critical hubs for storage and distribution, powering the state's economy and supporting global supply chains. However, behind this rapid growth lies a dangerous oversight — a glaring lack of fire safety infrastructure and awareness.

Despite handling high-value goods and hazardous materials, many of these warehouses operate without basic fire prevention systems, fire department approvals, or emergency protocols. The absence of strict enforcement, combined with the negligence of owners and authorities alike, has turned these industrial zones into ticking time bombs. A growing number of warehouses and factories are operating without basic fire safety systems, resulting in frequent fire accidents, loss of life, and significant property damage.

Fire safety approvals from fire stations and local authorities are mandatory, yet many owners blatantly violate these rules. The negligence of local bodies in granting approvals without proper

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 »

> **"Most taluks have only one fire station with two to three vehicles. Often, fire crew reach the site only to find no water available as warehouses fail to provide water tanks or storage as mandated by fire safety norms**
>
> —Fire station official

ORR CHOKE'S A JOKE

KAUSHIK JN

Social media explodes after post on taking 1 hour to cross 6 km on Outer Ring Road hits raw nerve

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A tweet by former Xiaomi India President Muralikrishnan B has reignited public frustration over Bengaluru's worsening traffic situation, particularly along the Outer Ring Road (ORR). In his post on X, Muralikrishnan described taking over an hour to cover just 6 kilometres, a tweet that quickly went viral and struck a chord with thousands of residents.

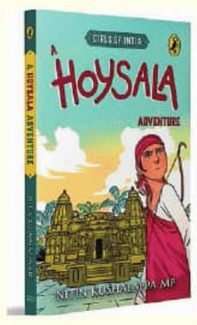
"6 kms - 1 hour. And FWIW I can run a 10K in 45 minutes," he wrote. The term "ORRmageddon," which he used in his tweet, has now become a catchy way to describe the daily traffic struggle faced by people in Bengaluru.

The post triggered a wave of responses from tech professionals,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Literary journey



Atta Galatta is organising an interactive session with Nitin Kushalappa, who will be taking the audience on a thrilling medieval adventure with his historical fiction work 'A Hoysala Adventure'. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: July 6, 4 pm**

02 Pitch perfect

SOCIAL is introducing 'Midweek Karaoke Nights', where guests can sing everything from nostalgic Bollywood hits to crowd-favourite pop anthems. Electronic City and JP Nagar outlets will be hosting weekly sessions led by local karaoke mainstay Nick Jose. **Where: E-City SOCIAL: Wednesdays, JP Nagar SOCIAL: Thursdays; 8 pm onwards**

03 Artistic heritage

Students of Aangik Dance School are presenting 'Kathak through the eras', a celebration of timeless grace, rhythm, and storytelling of Kathak, showcasing the evolution of the dance form and capturing the essence of changing narratives, styles, and influences. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: July 6, 6 pm**

04 Story time

Museum of Art and Photography is presenting 'Maati Katha', a celebration of human resilience in the midst of fragility—a resilience that enables diverse communities to hold together through repeated upheavals of natural calamity and human violence. **Where: Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar; When: July 5, 5.30 pm**

05 Canvas craft

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'Ethereal Charm' by Niladri Ghosh, encompassing forests and wildlife. Ghosh uses his art to highlight the importance of protecting nature. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: June 13 to July 6**

Dengue cases dip amidst prevention drive success

Door-to-door surveillance, training of BBMP personnel, and awareness campaigns at schools were conducted as part of efforts to control cases, says BBMP official

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City hospitals have confirmed a steep reduction in dengue cases this year, as compared to last year around the same time

Bengaluru recorded 440 dengue cases in June 2025, a significant drop compared to 1,804 in the same month last year. Between January and June this year, the city has reported 1,194 dengue cases, a decrease of nearly 70% compared to the same period last year. In the corresponding period in 2024, 3,516 cases were recorded.

The Health Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) says the drop in cases is due to a plethora of measures taken up by the department in the months leading to monsoon, when dengue cases are at peak.

A BBMP official highlighted that a door-to-door surveillance was initiated at the beginning of April, followed by training of BBMP's pourakarmikas and marshals in May. "Starting in June, we targeted school children and spread awareness amongst lakhs of school children and thousands of teachers on spotting and clearing dengue mosquito breeding sites," said the official.

The Health Department reached out to 1608 schools across the city, spreading awareness about the issue amongst more than 2.6 lakh students and educating more than 16,000 teachers. Moreover, as many as 700 volunteers and 240 health inspectors were deployed recently by the Karnataka Health Minister to take up mosquito breeding control measures across all eight zones of BBMP.

The civic agency is geared up to manage the infection in July, the month that records the highest cases in a calendar year. Notably, in July 2024, Bengaluru registered 5,172 cases.

> **"Starting in June, we targeted school children and spread awareness amongst lakhs of school children and thousands of teachers on spotting and clearing dengue mosquito breeding sites** – BBMP official

City hospitals have confirmed a steep dip in dengue cases this year, as compared to last year around the same time.

"I can confidently say cases are reduced by over 60 percent this year. We can attribute this to proper maintenance of sewage and sanitation, closing up of open drains, and other maintenance works," said Dr K S Harshith, Consultant - Internal Medicine, Aster RV Hospital, adding that increased awareness about precautionary measures has also played an important role.

However, healthcare experts say citizens should continue to remain vigilant and not let their guard down. "Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection that spreads because of the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the same mosquito that spreads Chikungunya. Thus, precautions should be taken to avoid being bitten," said Dr Suchismitha Rajamanya, Lead Consultant & HOD - Internal Medicine, Aster Whitefield Hospital. She said that if a person is suffering from a fever that persists beyond 24 to 48 hours, it is advisable to consult a healthcare expert to rule out the possibility of dengue. "If found infected, citizens should stay away from misconceptions such as having papaya leaf extract. There is no scientific evidence that the extract improves platelet count," said Dr Rajamanya.

Kamal Haasan restricted from making remarks about Kannada

A Bengaluru Civil Court on Friday issued an ex-parte interim injunction order prohibiting Tamil actor Kamal Haasan from making any statements asserting linguistic superiority over Kannada or publishing remarks that could hurt or defame Kannada language, literature, territory and culture.

Judge Madhu NR of the City Civil And Sessions Court delivered the interim order following a suit filed by Kannada Sahitya Parishat and its President, Nadoja Dr Mahesh Joshi. The legal action was initiated in response to Haasan's controversial remarks about Kannada language during the audio launch of 'Thug Life'.

The plaintiffs seek both permanent and mandatory injunctions, including a directive for Haasan to offer an unconditional apology to Karnataka's residents and Kannadigas. They also

highlight the timing of Haasan's remarks, noting that he submitted his nomination for a Rajya Sabha seat representing Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) shortly afterwards.

The plaintiffs maintain that whilst the Supreme Court has resolved the matter regarding the release of 'Thug Life', Haasan's unfounded and defamatory statement continues to affect Kannadigas' sentiments.

The court instructed the plaintiffs to comply with Order 1 Rule 8 (2) of the CPC, requiring public advertisement of the suit filed in representative capacity for Kannadigas. **— BMB**

KEA publishes list of eligible NEET candidates

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has released the list of 87,909 candidates who had selected Karnataka in their UG-NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) applications and have qualified for admission to medical courses. The list, now available on the KEA website, includes each candidate's NEET rank and the marks they scored in the entrance exam. According to KEA, the highest scorer in the state has secured 670 marks and holds the top rank, while even the lowest qualifying candidate, who scored 113 marks, remains eligible for admission. KEA Executive Director H Prasanna stated that the list was provided by the Directorate of Medical Education and published for public reference. He added that a link for NEET counselling registration will be activated in the next couple of days, and even candidates who have qualified but not yet submitted applications will be allowed to register. **— BMB**

Engineering seat allotment to begin in second week of July

In a move to avoid further delays, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has decided to commence engineering seat counselling in the second week of July, without waiting for the final list of medical seat allotments. The seat matrix for all courses—except medical, dental, and nursing—has been made available, and KEA is preparing to initiate counselling for these courses.

May 27 was the last date for institutions to submit their seat matrix to KEA. The National Medical Commission (NMC) is yet to grant recognition to some medical colleges in the state, making it impossible for the medical education department to release the final list of medical seats. As a result, KEA has decided to wait one more week and begin counselling for available courses from the second week of July. The Common Entrance Test (CET) results were announced on May 24, and over 2.75 lakh students have qualified. Though NEET results are also out, medical seat counselling is yet to begin. With around 30% of students opting for medical courses, KEA officials said there is no justification to keep the remaining 70% waiting. Engineering and other professional course admissions will now proceed as per the available data, with medical counselling to follow once all approvals are in place. **— BMB**

Lokayukta sets up internal surveillance wing

Following allegations that a Lokayukta SP was involved in extorting excise officials, the anti-corruption watchdog has been forced into damage control. To weed out corrupt elements within its own system, the Lokayukta has established an internal vigilance unit aimed at closely monitoring its officers and staff. A previous proposal seeking the creation of 24 new posts for this unit was rejected by the state government. Instead, the government directed the Lokayukta to utilise personnel transferred from the now-defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for internal vigilance duties. Acting swiftly, Lokayukta Justice BS Patil has temporarily set up the unit, with the registrar designated as its head. The wing will now collect intelligence and conduct covert investigations against Lokayukta officials across all districts, including Bengaluru.

The Lokayukta has also taken note of individuals who have been threatening government officials and extorting money by falsely claiming to act on behalf of Lokayukta or Upa Lokayukta. As many as 42 cases have been registered in this regard. The public has been urged to report such incidents, especially if they involve the misuse of the institution's name. Complaints with details of the callers can help initiate legal action. Justice Patil stressed that the internal wing would also identify and act against unauthorised or illegal personnel operating from within. All complaints against Lokayukta officers will be investigated either by the registrar or designated judicial officers. Disciplinary action will follow based on confidential internal reports. **— BMB**

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Only devotion, no pollution: Biodegradable shift begins

Inspired by KMF's eco-packaging, Muzrai Department bans plastic in over 34,000 temples, aiming to protect temple surroundings, animals, and community health

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In a decisive step to tackle plastic pollution, the Karnataka Muzrai Department has announced a complete ban on plastic products—including water bottles—across all 34,165 temples under its jurisdiction. The ban will take full effect from August 15, 2025. Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the initiative aims to eliminate hazardous plastic waste from temple premises and promote environmental sustainability.

Transition period till August 15

Devotees and temple authorities have been granted a grace period to exhaust existing stocks of plastic items before the ban takes effect on Aug 15. After the deadline, strict action will be taken against violations, including denying entry to devotees carrying plastic items into temple premises. The ban covers plastic water bottles, carry bags, disposable cups, plates, spoons, and packaged plastic containers and covers. Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy called it a firm step toward making temples environmentally conscious zones, noting that similar efforts are already underway at Mahadeshwara Hills and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh with positive public response.

Devotees carrying plastic items will be denied temple entry after the August 15 deadline

Circulars sent to all temples

Official circulars have already been sent to every Muzrai temple, instructing them to comply with the order. The Bengaluru South district alone has 167 such temples where the directive will be strictly implemented. The Muzrai Department joins a growing global movement against plastic, which takes hundreds of years to degrade and poses a serious threat to ecosystems and animal life. Despite numerous programs launched by various government bodies, plastic pollution remains a major concern, prompting departments like the Muzrai wing to lead by example.

Bengaluru South district alone has 167 such temples where the directive will be strictly implemented as Muzrai Department joins growing global movement against plastic

The Karnataka Milk Federation has already begun using biodegradable packaging for milk distribution, setting an example the Muzrai Department hopes to emulate in temple management.

Inspired by such efforts, the department aims to create cleaner, more sustainable temple environments. BT Venkatesh, a member of the Bengaluru South District Religious Council, welcomed the move, stating that despite repeated appeals, plastic use continued within temple premises. He added that the ban is a much-needed step to improve temple surroundings and protect animals and birds affected by plastic waste.

Homebuyers seek action on long-pending property issues

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The Karnataka Home Buyers Forum has submitted a memorandum to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, urging the state government to resolve long-pending issues affecting thousands of homeowners, particularly those related to ownership rights and regulatory gaps. "We would like to bring to your notice that homebuyers in Karnataka are deprived of their ownership rights due to various reasons," the memorandum reads. The forum outlined key challenges and proposed solutions they believe the Chief Secretary could implement in the interest of lakhs of affected citizens.

One of the major issues highlighted was the failure of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to update land khata mutation records for apartment owners. Despite having registered flats, many owners find their names missing from land khata documents, which is critical for establishing legal ownership. The forum cited a recent Supreme Court judgment (CML Appeal No. 3954/2025, dated April 7, 2025), which reinforced the importance of revenue records in establishing property rights.

Another significant concern was the lack of a project closure policy under RERA in Karnataka. The forum noted that while developers are mandated to register their projects with RERA, there is no structured mechanism to ensure completion as per the Act's provisions. They urged the government to introduce a project closure framework to ensure compliance.

The forum also pointed out that RERA lacks Revenue Recovery Officers, resulting in poor enforcement of compensation or refund orders issued in favour of homebuyers. "We request the Hon'ble Chief Secretary to advise that revenue officers be appointed within RERA to ensure money recovery is carried out in a time-bound manner," the memorandum stated. Additionally, they expressed concern over the absence of a clear policy on Apartment Owners' Associations. "Neither RERA nor the Housing Department has released any guidelines for registering apartment owners' associations," the forum said. They highlighted the confusion caused by multiple, overlapping Apartment Ownership Acts in Karnataka, with no designated department responsible for implementation.

To resolve this, the forum said it had submitted a draft of a new Apartment Ownership Act to the state government in December 2023, and also filed Writ Petition 202/2025 in the High Court seeking appropriate directions. "We request the Chief Secretary to instruct the concerned department to release the new Act to bring clarity and address the long-standing concerns of homeowners across the state," the memorandum concluded.

K-RERA proposes recovery cell for builder dues

In a move to address growing complaints from homebuyers and recover long-pending dues from errant builders, the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has proposed the formation of a dedicated recovery cell within the Revenue Department. The unit aims to expedite the collection of over ₹650 crore in penalties from builders who have violated RERA norms, including delays in handing over homes.

Despite issuing recovery certificates (RRCs), many developers have failed to comply, prompting K-RERA to seek a stronger enforcement mechanism. The proposed cell would be headed by a Special District Collector, supported by two Tahsildars and additional staff, empowered to seize and auction assets using provisions from both RERA and revenue laws.

K-RERA data shows that only ₹18.7 crore has been recovered from 62 cases out of 565—just 3% of total dues. Around ₹347.44 crore remains unpaid across 594 cases, with 10 major developers alone owing ₹347 crore. Orion Urban Infra leads the defaulters' list, with 229 cases and dues of ₹201 crore, of which only ₹7.53 crore has been collected. Welcoming the proposal, the Forum for People's Collective Efforts, a homebuyers' group, said Karnataka would become only the second state in India to set up such a recovery unit.

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Pothole peril

Kempapura

A large pothole near Ward No. 7, between Sindhi College and Presidency College in Kempapura, has remained neglected for over three months, posing a daily hazard to heavy vehicular traffic.

Waste neglect

Frazer Town

Uncollected garbage has been piling up for two days in Sindhi Colony, Frazer Town, inconveniencing residents and raising serious hygiene and sanitation concerns.

Unsafe walkways

Varthur Kodi

The damaged footpath opposite Sigma Tech Park near Varthur Kodi bus stand is forcing pedestrians onto the road, putting their safety at daily risk.

Bus station in disarray, patrol yet to return

Sex worker in inebriated state is spotted at Kempegowda Bus Station, causing difficulty for BMTC staff; with no police patrolling, managing situation on premises remains challenge amid commuter complaints

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With no police patrolling at Kempe Gowda Bus Station, the activities of sex workers have been causing disturbances and making it challenging for BMTC (Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation) staff to maintain order. Despite their efforts, the situation remains difficult to manage.

On Friday, a few BMTC ticket inspectors were seen attempting to move along a sex worker who appeared to be in an inebriated state. She was seated in front of a shop within the Kempe Gowda Bus Station premises. She was reportedly under the influence of alcohol or drugs and was seen adjusting her clothes in public, drawing attention from passersby.

"It is a difficult situation. We're unsure how to handle it. We've come across women in an inebriated state occupying benches and sitting on the platform. Police patrols were once regular at the bus station, but they are no longer visible. Earlier, the Obavva Squad was deployed to address the presence of sex workers and other disruptive elements.'' said a woman ticket inspector.

Defunct police outpost at BMTC bus station

Bangalore Mirror published a story, "Women in black are going places: After their success at the Kempe Gowda bus stand, Bengaluru's Obavva Squad will be stationed at more locations," on July 28, 2018, narrating how the Obavva Squad had played a key role in addressing the issues posed by sex workers and sexual minorities at the Kempegowda Bus Station.

> **"I am not against them, but it is not easy for me to cope with the commotion. The foot-over bridge has become a destination for sexual minorities**
> –Commuter

Many commuters, especially women, have expressed concern over the presence of sex workers and sexual minorities on the bus stand premises, particularly on the foot-over bridge. "I am not against them, but it is not easy for me to cope with the commotion. The foot-over bridge has become a destination for sexual minorities,'' said a woman commuter.

There has been a police outpost at the BMTC Bus Station, making it convenient for police to patrol the premises. With the police outpost closed, there is no one to control the situation. "We have already informed the Upparpet Police Inspector to send police to patrol the bus station. We have decided to construct a police outpost,'' said Nayana MN, Divisional Traffic Officer, BMTC.

Meanwhile, the Upparpet Police Inspector has assured that special squads will be deployed soon to ensure the Kempegowda Bus Station is free from all types of disturbances. "We will depute police personnel to regularly patrol the bus station. The BMTC has agreed to construct a police outpost on the bus station premises very shortly,'' the Police Inspector said.

However, Karnataka Sex Workers' Union president Mangala said that sex workers can solicit customers at public places. "Sex workers cannot solicit customers at remote places or 200 metres away from public places like bus stations. I am against any sex worker creating a nuisance at a public place like Kempe Gowda Bus Station,'' said Mangala.

Shakuntala, General Secretary, Karnataka Sex Workers' Union, speaking over the phone from Bidar, said, "Sex workers are not supposed to consume liquor and create a nuisance at public places. They can consume liquor at their homes,'' said Shakuntala.

Farmer dies en route to protest site

A 55-year-old farmer, who had travelled from Chamarajanagar district to join the ongoing farmers' protest at Freedom Park, collapsed near Sangolli Rayanna Circle on Thursday morning and later died during treatment.

The deceased, identified as Eshwar, a resident of Kurubarahalli village in Gundlupet taluk, had reportedly arrived in Bengaluru by train from Mysore. According to police, he was on foot heading towards the protest venue when he suddenly collapsed near Majestic Railway Station Road, within Cottonpet police station limits.

Passersby alerted authorities, and he was rushed to the hospital in Sheshadripuram. Despite efforts, doctors declared him dead shortly after. Preliminary reports suggest he may have had a history of hypertension and diabetes, though a post-mortem examination is awaited to confirm the exact cause of death.

The Cottonpet police have taken up a case and are verifying the details. His body has been sent for autopsy.

Eshwar was among the many farmers who had gathered in Bengaluru to participate in the ongoing protest demanding better support prices, loan waivers, and land rights. **–BMB**

Husband dies, wife confesses murder

A man was allegedly beaten to death by his wife in Suddagunte Palya following a heated argument. The incident took place on the night of June 27 at Chandrodaya Kalyana Mantapa, where the couple lived with their two children.

Baskar (42) reportedly returned home drunk and got into a fight with his wife Shruti (32). In a fit of rage, she allegedly struck him with a wooden stick while he was asleep. He was found dead the next morning.

Initially, Shruti told the police that her husband had died in his sleep. A case of Unnatural Death (UDR) was registered, and Baskar's body was sent for postmortem. However, the autopsy confirmed that he had suffered blunt force injuries.

Following further interrogation, Shruti reportedly confessed to the crime. The police have now registered a murder case against her and have arrested her. Investigations are ongoing. **–BMB**

MEDICOVER HOSPITAL
Marks Doctors' Day with Joyful Celebrations and Appreciation

Bengaluru, Whitefield: On the occasion of National Doctors' Day, Medicover Hospital organized a grand celebration to honor the invaluable service of doctors. The event took place in the hospital auditorium and featured a series of entertainment programs designed to bring joy and relaxation to the dedicated medical professionals.

Doctors from all departments enthusiastically participated in the celebration, which included music and cultural activities. The event served as a refreshing break and a token of appreciation for their tireless commitment to patients' health and wellbeing.

All departmental heads conveyed their heartfelt wishes and acknowledged the vital role of doctors in the healthcare system. The hospital's Head, Mr. Krishnamurthy, delivered an inspiring message, expressing deep respect for the doctors' compassion, sacrifice and resilience, especially in challenging times.

"Doctors are the backbone of our hospital. Their dedication inspires every member of the staff. Today, we stand together to celebrate them" he stated. The program concluded with cake cutting, mementoes distributed as tokens of gratitude and group photos capturing the joyful moments. The day reflected the hospital's commitment to building a positive and respectful work environment for all medical staff.

BM Brand Initiative

Farmhouse projects blend nature, luxury, returns

City investors flock to Mysuru farmlands for lifestyle upgrades, secure returns, and sandalwood profits in managed, resort-style agricultural projects

In a growing trend across Karnataka, urban investors are increasingly turning toward farmhouse living as both a lifestyle choice and a smart investment. Just a five-minute drive from the Mysuru–Bengaluru Highway, farmlands in this region are emerging as hot property — offering not only the charm of greenery and clean air but also the promise of profitable returns. In fact, farmlands are witnessing growing demand from city dwellers who are seeking a better quality of life and smarter ways to invest.

A realtor said, "One investment here can deliver four benefits — a peaceful retreat, a smart asset, a weekend getaway, and long-term income. It's the perfect blend of lifestyle and value."

Green investments boom

The concept of owning farm land or a farmhouse has long been associated with luxury, but today, it is viewed as a viable financial opportunity. The lush lands along the Mysuru–Bannur Road are fertile and ideal for agriculture, allowing owners to grow sandalwood, vegetables, fruits, and spices. Several investors have already begun cultivating commercial crops, including the highly lucrative sandalwood trees, which are being nurtured under secure and developer-managed settings.

Previously, growing sandalwood was considered a high-risk venture due to theft and lack of surveillance. However, with advancements in security infrastructure and government policies supporting sandalwood cultivation, this has changed. Developers provide complete maintenance, security, and plantation management, making it a safe and hands-free investment for buyers.

Apart from plantations, these projects also offer the option to build fully equipped farmhouses. These come with resort-style amenities such as landscaped gardens, clubhouses, and recreational zones. Buyers can choose between having a farmhouse constructed or simply investing in the land with sandalwood or mixed-crop plantations. In both cases, the benefits are substantial.

The rapid expansion of Mysuru's infrastructure, including the proposed Peripheral Ring Road, has boosted the appeal of these farmlands. With improved road access, the journey from Mysuru to these farm sites now takes as little as 15 minutes. This enhanced connectivity is a key driver in the property value appreciation and the overall attractiveness of the region.

–Prakash VL

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India's commercial real estate sees major upswing

India's commercial office market is witnessing a strong upswing in 2025, with Bengaluru firmly at the forefront. According to ANAROCK Research, the top seven Indian cities recorded a 40% year-on-year growth in net office leasing during the first half (H1) of 2025, rising to approximately 26.8 million sq. ft., up from 19.08 million sq. ft. in H1 2024.

Bengaluru posted the highest net absorption of office space, clocking around 6.55 million sq. ft. in H1 2025—a 64% increase over the 4 million sq. ft. leased in the same period last year. Pune followed closely, with a staggering 188% growth, rising from 1.32 million sq. ft. to 3.8 million sq. ft. Kolkata was the only city to see a decline, with leasing activity dropping by 51% year-on-year.

New office supply surges

New office completions across the top cities also rose 25%, from 19.65 million sq. ft. in H1 2024 to 24.51 million sq. ft. this year. Bengaluru again topped the list, adding 6.91 million sq. ft. of new stock—a 26% jump from last year's 5.5 million sq. ft.

Pune stood out with a 533% increase in supply (0.9 to 5.7 million sq. ft.), while NCR saw a 35% rise. Meanwhile, MMR and Hyderabad experienced declines of 45% and 17%, respectively.

Overall office vacancy rates drop marginally to 16.30% from 16.70% year-on-year across India's top cities

IT, co-working drive demand

The IT/ITeS sector remained the dominant driver of office space demand, accounting for 29% of leasing activity in H1 2025. Co-working spaces held strong with a 22% share, followed by BFSI at 18%. These segments saw a 1% increase in demand compared to last year, alongside gains from consulting and e-commerce companies.

Manufacturing and industrial leasing, however, declined slightly. According to Peush Jain, MD – Commercial Leasing & Advisory, ANAROCK Group, India's robust economic fundamentals continue to attract GCCs and large global corporates seeking stable markets.

Vacancy and rentals remain stable

Overall office vacancy rates improved marginally, dropping to 16.30% from 16.70% a year ago. However, some cities saw localised rises: MMR's vacancy rate increased to 15.10%, and Hyderabad's remained the highest at 26.60%.

Average monthly office rents across the top cities rose 5%, from ₹84 to ₹88 per sq. ft.. Chennai led with a 6% hike, while Bengaluru and NCR saw 5% increases.

Bengaluru remains India's office market leader

With the highest absorption and fresh supply, Bengaluru continues to cement its status as India's commercial capital. Industry experts say strong digital infrastructure, favourable demographics, and stable macroeconomics will keep corporate interest high in the coming quarters.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

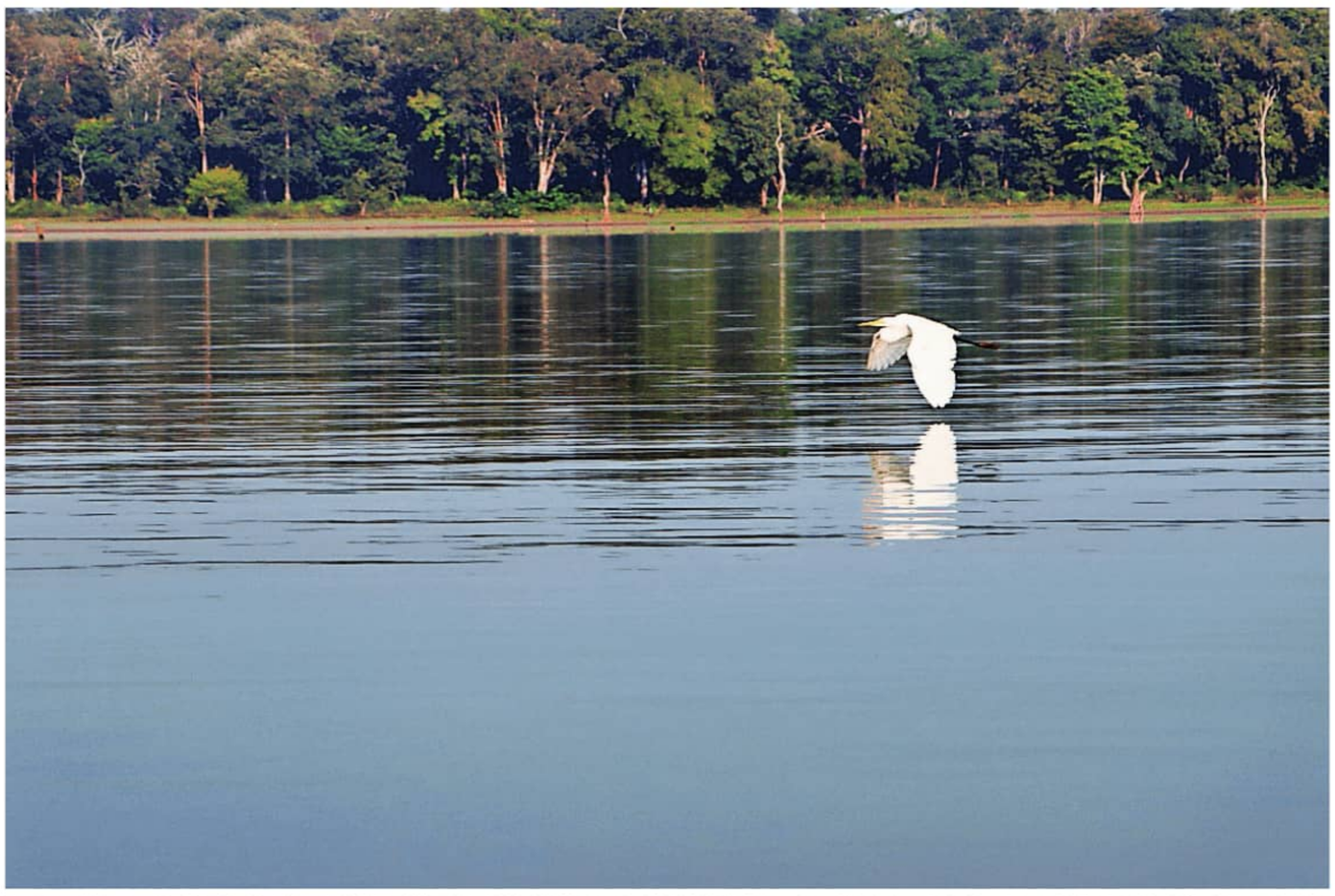
and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

EGRET IN FLIGHT

Our reader shares a graceful image of a Great Egret gliding over the serene Kabini backwaters, with the lush Nagarhole forest forming a majestic backdrop. Captured mid-flight, the Egret's elegance is perfectly framed by the stillness of the landscape—reminding us of the quiet beauty and balance of nature's ecosystems.

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**



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Concrete makeover for Nandi Hills: ₹9-crore road project approved

New interlocking paver road to tackle hilltop weather woes, boost tourism, and enhance the scenic charm of Nandi Hills

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Constructing and maintaining roads atop Nandi Hills has never been an easy task. With its consistently cool climate and slightly higher-than-average rainfall, roads here often deteriorate faster despite good quality materials. Addressing this persistent issue, the government has now approved the construction of a new-model road using concrete pavers—a solution expected to be more durable and aesthetically appealing.

To address the recurring problem of road damage, the Public Works Department (PWD) has sanctioned ₹9 crore to replace the existing 2-kilometre asphalt stretch with a road made of interlocking concrete pavers. This model, already in use at other prominent tourist destinations, is being adopted for its durability, ease of maintenance, and visual appeal.

Officials believe the new construction will offer a long-term solution to the persistent wear and tear caused by the area's terrain and climate. Traditional asphalt roads, though initially effective, have not held up well due to the region's high moisture content and heavy vehicle movement. The interlocking pavers are expected to withstand these conditions far better.

Nandi Hills receives a heavy inflow of tourists throughout the year, with a significant number of vehicles making the uphill journey daily. Both government-operated and private vehicles contribute to the continuous traffic. The lack of flat terrain adds to the stress on roads, leading to frequent cracking and erosion.

One of the biggest challenges in road work on the hilltop is accessibility. Large construction equipment cannot navigate the narrow roads, which means crews must rely on smaller machinery and manual labour. This often prolongs the construction timeline and can compromise the overall quality of work. With the new plan, however, the use of prefabricated concrete blocks may streamline the process and help maintain quality.

An official involved in the project said, "We had submitted a proposal to the PWD Minister for a road that would last and blend in with the surroundings. Minister Satish Jarkiholi has approved ₹9 crore for the new paver road. This approach will reduce the need for frequent repairs and enhance the visitor experience."

The road upgrade is part of a broader initiative to boost tourism infrastructure at Nandi Hills. The government has also granted administrative sanction worth ₹50 crore for several new facilities, including a high-tech restaurant. Meanwhile, a proposal for a ropeway to the hill is under active consideration.

Together, these developments are expected to improve accessibility, enhance visitor amenities, and preserve the natural beauty of one of Karnataka's most beloved tourist spots.

Narrow access routes on Nandi Hills pose challenges for road work using large construction vehicles

DID YOU KNOW?

Astronomers are monitoring an object headed our way that may have wandered over from another star system. Scientists have discovered what might be only the third known interstellar object to pass through our solar system, the European Space Agency said Wednesday. Currently near Jupiter, the object designated A11pl3Z is harmless and moving toward Mars. Scientists say it will not approach the Sun any closer than that. It is too early to determine whether A11pl3Z is a rocky asteroid or an icy comet, or even its exact size or shape. NASA is monitoring the object, while further observations are expected to help confirm its origin. Astrophysicist Josep Trigo-Rodriguez from the Institute of Space Sciences in Spain said its unusual trajectory and high speed suggest it may be from outside our solar system. He estimates its size at about 25 miles (40 kilometres) across. In 2017, 'Oumuamua became the first confirmed interstellar object. The second, comet 21/Borisov, was spotted in 2019. — AP

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Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill' does not let him delay or cancel elections

Social media users are falsely claiming that President Donald Trump's recently passed tax bill would give him the power to delay or cancel federal elections. These claims, which spread rapidly online following the Senate's passage of the bill during an overnight session, have no basis in fact. One viral post on X read, "The reason the GOP isn't concerned about the midterms and why they are pushing this bill is because it gives Trump power to cancel elections. If this bill passes — it's the end of the country. Democracy is over." However, there is nothing in the tax bill that grants Trump, or any president, the authority to postpone or cancel elections. Legal experts have confirmed that only a constitutional amendment could give someone such power. As it stands, the timing of federal elections is fixed by federal law and changing that would require action by Congress, not the president.

Barry Burden, director of the Elections Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, emphasized this point. "Although President Trump might like to cancel or postpone an upcoming election if he thought his party was going to fare poorly, the One Big Beautiful Bill does not actually grant him that power," Burden said. White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson dismissed the viral posts, calling them "obviously fake news." Experts believe the confusion may stem from a now-removed provision in the House version of the bill. This section, known as Section 70302, addressed judicial enforcement and was ultimately excluded from the final Senate version due to a violation of the Byrd Rule, which bars non-budgetary provisions in reconciliation bills.

Section 70302 would have required plaintiffs seeking injunctions or temporary restraining orders to post a financial bond before courts could issue contempt penalties. While some feared this provision could undermine court authority, legal scholars say it would not have impacted election timing or results.

Justin Levitt, a constitutional law expert at Loyola Marymount University, explained that even if Trump tried to cancel elections, he would have no legal authority. "If Trump announced, 'I'm canceling the elections,' that has as much power as my announcing I'm canceling the elections," Levitt said.

Similarly, Richard Pildes, a constitutional law professor at New York University, responded bluntly when asked whether Section 70302 would have allowed Trump control over elections: "Obviously not."

The U.S. Constitution outlines the scheduling of federal elections. Since 1845, presidential elections have occurred on "the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November," a tradition maintained through wars and national crises. Laws passed in 1872 and 1914 synchronized House and Senate elections with the presidential cycle. Presidential and vice-presidential terms last four years; senators serve six years, and representatives serve two. Once those terms end, officials cannot remain in office unless reelected. Changing those limits would require a constitutional amendment, which is highly improbable. Some states permit voting to continue beyond Election Day in cases of "extraordinary and catastrophic" events like natural disasters. But outside of such exceptions, there is no legal mechanism for delaying federal elections.

While Congress could theoretically grant the president some election-related authority, Levitt noted, doing so is "extremely unlikely." In conclusion, the viral claim that Trump's tax bill gives him the power to cancel elections is entirely false. **— AP**

Tiger deaths: Forest officers suspended for negligence

Forest dept order says officials did not notice dead tigers for 2 days, did not alert anti-poaching camp; why pick on overstretched personnel, ask activists

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MM Hills' lush terrain now under shadow on staff protests and wildlife conservation lapses amid tiger deaths

Following the compulsory leave order of the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) and Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) of MM Hills Wildlife Division a few days ago, a fresh order has been issued by the Forest Department, sending the Deputy Range Forest Officer and Forest Guard of the division on compulsory leave too.

The latest directive, dated July 2, was issued by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chamarajanagar. The order cites gross negligence in forest and wildlife conservation, particularly in connection with the discovery of five dead tigers in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS).

"All five tigers were found dead just 100 meters from the road but were not noticed by department staff for two days. This is considered a serious lapse," the order states. It further notes that an anti-poaching camp is located merely 800 meters from where the carcasses were found, yet no action was taken in time to prevent the tragedy.

However, the decision has drawn sharp criticism from wildlife activists and conservationists, who argue that the department is unfairly targeting frontline staff while ignoring systemic issues. "This order will only harm wildlife conservation efforts. Frontline staff already work under tremendous pressure due to staff shortages. Making them scapegoats sets a dangerous precedent," said one conservationist.

> **"This order will cause more damage. Frontline staff work under pressure due to shortage; such actions are unjustified and set a wrong precedent**
>
> –Wildlife conservationist

Earlier this week, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Bengaluru, had issued an official memorandum directing the DCF, ACF, and Zonal Forest Officers of the division to proceed on compulsory leave until further notice.

Grassroots-level workers have also raised concerns about the dire working conditions of forest staff. Many say that lack of timely salaries has directly affected patrol activities. Forest watchers from MM Hills staged a protest on June 23, claiming they had not received their salaries for the past three months.

"The delay in payment has severely disrupted patrolling. It's the responsibility of the DCF to ensure staff are compensated as promised. If this continues, wildlife protection will become impossible," said a wildlife activist.

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has acknowledged the issue, calling the non-payment of salaries a major administrative lapse. "Although funds were released by the end of April to pay wages to outsourced staff, the salaries were not disbursed even by June. This is a serious failure on the part of DCF Y Chakrapani," he said.

Khandre added that such lapses have led to disengagement among frontline staff and contributed to the failure of patrol operations. He also pointed to a previous department order that gave the Range Forest Officer (RFO) of the Hoogyam Wildlife Zone the additional charge of Palar Wildlife Zone—a move that, according to activists, further strained already overstretched personnel.

"This situation was a disaster waiting to happen," said one conservationist. "Assigning double duties without ensuring basic staff payments and support created the conditions for this tragedy."

Now, based on a preliminary report from a six-member high-level inquiry committee, the Forest Minister has recommended the suspension of DCF Y Chakrapani and three other officials from the MM Hills Wildlife Division. The committee includes senior officers from the Forest Department, a wildlife expert, and a representative from the National Tiger Conservation Author

"The ACF, RFO, and DRFO failed to monitor their areas and were negligent in their basic responsibilities. A departmental inquiry will follow," Khandre said.

The Minister has instructed the committee to submit its final report by July 10. As investigations continue, activists warn that unless core structural issues like staff shortages and salary delays are addressed, such incidents could repeat themselves.

Siddaramaiah defends vaccine comments: Empathy, not anti-science misinformation

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Facing flak over his recent comments linking Covid-19 vaccines to a rise in heart attacks, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday clarified that he was merely voicing public concerns and not spreading misinformation.

Taking to social media platform X, the Chief Minister said his remarks were made in response to genuine fears raised by families who had lost loved ones unexpectedly. "I have a duty to respond to the genuine concerns of people. Seeking clarity is not misinformation; it is governance rooted in empathy," he posted.

Siddaramaiah cited international studies and the rare side effects acknowledged by vaccine manufacturers such as AstraZeneca. He insisted that raising awareness of potential risks should not be seen as anti-science. "While the vaccines have saved lives, scientific caution is not a sin. Acknowledging rare adverse events like myocarditis is part of transparent governance," he said.

Clarifying his earlier use of the word "hasty," the Chief Minister said it referred to the emergency rollouts of vaccines during the pandemic, which were necessary at the time but implemented without long-term data. "Haste is not a sin when saving lives, but recognising unintended consequences is wisdom," he added.

> **"Seeking clarity is not misinformation; it is governance rooted in empathy, responding to genuine public concerns** –CM Siddaramaiah

His clarification followed criticism from Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, who said Indian vaccines were approved after following global standards and rigorous protocols under Emergency Use Authorisation.

Health experts also warned against drawing direct links between vaccination and heart attacks, citing factors such as stress, lifestyle, and supplement use.

Siddaramaiah concluded by emphasising the need for transparency in governance, saying acknowledging both benefits and rare risks was essential to public trust.

E-Swathu system comes to standstill

Issuance of property documents under the 'E-Swathu' system has come to a near standstill across all gram panchayat jurisdictions in Karnataka due to alleged ambiguities and flaws in the recently implemented "Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2015."

The confusion has also delayed the distribution of 'B-Khata' documents for unauthorised sites and structures in rural areas, as no clear regulation or implementation framework has been defined. This has left both legal and illegal property owners in limbo, unable to obtain official identifiers such as E-Swathu or B-Khata.

Under Section 199D of the amended Act, only layouts and sites approved by urban development or local planning authorities—as per the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961—qualify for new Property Identification Numbers (PIDs). This excludes houses built on revenue lands, forest or government land, and unapproved layouts.

With over one crore properties in rural areas lacking layout or building plan approvals, the state stands to lose thousands of crores in potential property tax revenue. Lack of clarity hinders officials from framing rules. **–BMB**

No more fare rounding-off

The KSRTC is preparing to discontinue the fare rounding-off system currently applicable to tickets issued on select premium services. The move comes after the successful implementation of UPI-based digital payment systems across its operations.

The rounding-off system, which applied only to around 400 premium service buses, was limited to tickets issued through Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) and AVATAR counters. Under this method, fares between ₹101 and ₹105 were rounded down to ₹100, while those between ₹106 and ₹109 were rounded up to ₹110.

However, with digital payments becoming standard across BMTC and KSRTC services, officials say the need for fare approximation no longer exists. Software updates are underway to enable exact fare transactions. KSRTC says move ensures accuracy, transparency, and supports digital transformation.

Sunday updates for Purple line

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will temporarily curtail services on the Purple Line between Indiranagar and Baiyappanahalli stations on Sunday, July 6, from 7 am to 8 am to facilitate scheduled maintenance work between Swami Vivekananda and Baiyappanahalli Metro Stations.

Regular services on this stretch will resume from 8 am onwards. All other sections including Challaghatta to Indiranagar, Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield (Kadugodi), and Madavara to Silk Institute—will operate as usual. Commuters are advised to plan their travel accordingly.

Netizens try to joke ORR pain away

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commuters and alike. Many shared similar experiences, some laced with humour, others tinged with fatigue and resignation. "Though it's 18 km from home, by car it takes nearly 2 hours due to traffic," one user wrote. "Sometimes I opt for my bicycle, surprisingly, I reach in under 1.5 hours!"

Others explained how ORR traffic has reshaped their daily lives, with people moving closer to offices, quitting jobs, or choosing to work remotely just to escape the gridlock, ranting about how the traffic takes more than 3 hours to commute 12 km.

Entrepreneur Dilip Kumar compared the situation to a health emergency, tweeting, "Why can't we pretend there is a pandemic and it's called road traffic and go back to working from home?"

For many, the idea of walking, jogging, or cycling has become more efficient than using a vehicle. Fitness apps are tracking thousands of steps, not from exercise, but from navigating jammed streets.

More than just delays

What was once written off as routine congestion has now become a deeper civic concern. From rain and potholes to signal failures and unchecked vehicle registrations, multiple issues are feeding into the ORR chaos. Despite attempts at solutions, including flyovers, underpasses, and signal-free corridors, congestion remains largely unresolved.

Many Bengalureans now describe their daily commute not just as inconvenient, but mentally and physically exhausting. For countless workers, remote work has transitioned from a preference to a necessity.

The frustration isn't limited to one section of society. Whether junior developers or delivery agents, everyone seems affected. What unites them is the growing sense that Bengaluru's infrastructure is unable to keep pace with its economic growth.

One X user remarked, "ORR rules, leave before 7.30 in the morning or be stuck listening to hour-long podcasts!" Another added, "Keep walking and reduce weight instead of cribbing. Adapt to the situation," reflecting the growing sense of

helplessness among commuters who no longer believe a real solution is on the horizon.

Beyond rants, real questions

Bengaluru's traffic is not just an inconvenience anymore, it's affecting people's health, time, and quality of life.

Citizens say they are tired of short-term fixes. They're asking for real solutions: Better planning, improved public transport, and policies that focus on people, not just cars. Until that happens, many will continue walking, joking, or working from home just to avoid the stress. For some, remote work isn't a preference, it's the only way to cope.

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I, Karishma Hemraj Jain W/O, Amith P R/o Flat No 202 2nd Floor Sathyadeepa Mansion 5th Main Road Chamrajpet Bengaluru 560018 have changed my name to Karishma Amith Jain for all purposes.

I, Safa Fathima Ahamed Kaleel Ibrahim R/o #501, A Block, Mantri Pride Apts, No.54, Mountain Road, Jayanagar 1st Block, B'luru 560011 have changed my name to Safa Fathima for all purposes.

I, Sheela Poulose Menachery R/o No. 1 3rd Floor, 2nd Cross Agrahara Dasarahalli Bengaluru 560079 have changed my name to Sheela Menachery for all purposes.

I, Gian Singh S/o Gurmej Singh R/o Namdhari Seeds Pvt Ltd, Urgahalli, Ramanagar 562109 have changed my name to Gian Singh Dhillon for all purposes

I Lubna W/O, Syed Ajmal R/o 32 4th Cross Pottery Town Williams Town Benson Town Post Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Syed Lubna.

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HEALTH TIP: Gentle movement like a short walk can boost blood circulation and lift your mood

If you have blurry vision regularly, book an eyes examination along with a blood pressure check

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

Vitamin B6 in excess can be toxic. 3 symptoms to watch out for

Side effects from taking too much vitamin B6 – including nerve damage – may be more widespread than we think, Australia's medicines regulator says.

In an ABC report earlier this week, a spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) says it may have underestimated the extent of the side effects from vitamin B6 supplements.

However, there are proposals to limit sales of high-dose versions due to safety concerns.

A pathologist who runs a clinic that tests vitamin B6 in blood samples from across Australia also appeared on the program. He told the ABC that data from May suggests 4.5 per cent of samples tested had returned results "very likely" indicating nerve damage.

So what are vitamin B6 supplements? How can they be toxic? And which symptoms do you need to watch out for?

What is vitamin B6?

Vitamin B6, also known as pyridoxine, plays an important role in keeping the body healthy. It is involved in the metabolism of proteins, carbohydrates and fats in food. It is also important for the production of neurotransmitters – chemical messengers in the brain that maintain its function and regulate your mood.

Vitamin B6 also supports the immune system by helping to make antibodies, which fight off infections. And it is needed to produce haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen around the body.

Some women take a vitamin B6 supplement when pregnant. It is thought this helps reduce the nausea associated with the early stages of pregnancy. Some women also take it to help with premenstrual syndrome.

However, most people don't need, and won't benefit from, a vitamin B6 supplement. That's because you get enough vitamin B6 from your diet through meat, breakfast cereal, fruit and vegetables.

You don't need much. A dose of 1.3–1.7 milligrams a day is enough for most adults.

Currently, vitamin B6 supplements with a daily dose of 5–200mg can be sold over the counter at health food stores, supermarkets and pharmacies.

Because of safety concerns, the TGA is proposing limiting their sale to pharmacies, and only after consultation with a pharmacist.

Daily doses higher than 200mg already need a doctor's prescription. So under the proposal that would stay the same.

What happens if you take too much?

If you take too much vitamin B6, in most cases the excess will be excreted in your urine and most people won't experience side effects. But there is a growing concern about long-time, high-dose use.

A side effect the medical community is worried about is peripheral neuropathy – where there is damage to the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord. This results in pain, numbness or weakness, usually in your hands and feet. We don't yet know exactly how this happens.

In most reported cases, these symptoms disappear once you stop taking the supplement. But for some people it may take three months to two years before they feel completely better.

There is growing, but sometimes contradictory, evidence that high doses (more than 50mg a day) for extended periods can result in serious side effects.

A study from the 1990s followed 70 patients for five years who took a dose of 100 to 150mg a day. There were no reported cases of neuropathy.

But more recent studies show high rates of side effects.

A 2023 case report provides details of a man who was taking multiple supplements. This resulted in a daily combined 95mg dose of vitamin B6, and he experienced neuropathy.

Another report describes seven cases of neuropathy linked to drinking energy drinks containing vitamin B6.

Reports to the TGA's database of adverse events notifications (a record of reported side effects) shows 174 cases of neuropathy linked with vitamin B6 use since 2023.

What should I do if I take vitamin B6?

The current advice is that someone who takes a dose of 50mg a day or more, for more than six months, should be monitored by a health-care professional. So if you regularly take vitamin B6 supplements you should discuss continued use with your doctor or pharmacist.

There are three side effects to watch out for, the first two related to neuropathy:

- numbness or pain in the feet and hands
- difficulty with balance and coordination as a result of muscle weakness

heartburn and nausea. If you have worrying side effects after taking vitamin B6 supplements, contact your state's poison information centre on 13 11 26 for advice.

(By Nial Wheate, Macquarie University Slade Matthews, University of Sydney The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study finds human brain cells continue to form into late adulthood

A study has shown that neurons or nerve cells continue to form well into late adulthood in the brain's hippocampus, which manages memory -- a finding that presents compelling new evidence about the human brain's adaptability.

Neurogenesis -- a process whereby new neurons are created -- is said to continue throughout one's life, even as the rate is considered to slow down with age.

However, researchers from Karonlinska Institutet in Sweden said the extent and significance of neurogenesis is still debated with no clear evidence of cells that precede new neurons -- or 'neural progenitor cells' -- actually existing and dividing in adults.

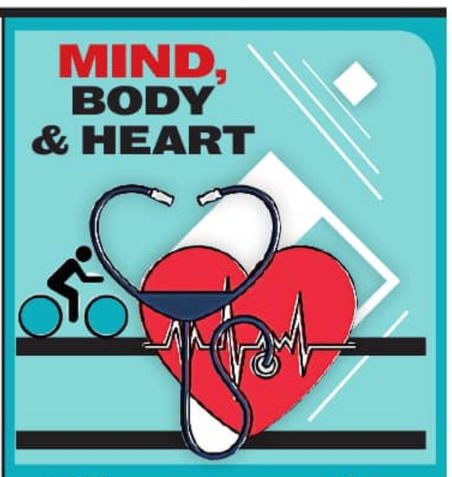
"We have now been able to identify these cells of origin, which confirms that there is an ongoing formation of neurons in the hippocampus of the adult brain," Jonas Frisen, professor of stem cell research, Karolinska Institutet, who led the research published in the journal Science.

The team used carbon dating methods to analyse DNA from brain tissue, which made it possible to determine when the cells were formed. Tissue samples of people aged 0 to 78 were obtained from international biobanks, they said.

The results showed that cells that precede the forming of new neurons in adults are similar to those mice, pigs and monkeys, with differences in genes which are active.

The researchers also found large differences between individuals -- some adult humans had many neural progenitor cells, others hardly any at all.

Frisen added that the study is an "important piece of the puzzle in understanding how the human brain works and changes during life", with implications for developing regenerative treatments in neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Going screen-free

Establish screen-free zones at home
Find areas in your home where screens simply cannot take up residence, the bedroom, dining table etc. A gentle rule of sorts to allow you to have meals free of distractions, better sleep, and authentic conversations without the constant need to check notifications.

Try a digital sunset
Turn off all screens one hour before bed. This allows your mind to settle and your body to prepare for real sleep. The blue light on screens can disrupt your sleep hormones, leaving you feeling restless. Instead, read a book, stretch, listen to music or make a warming cup of tea.

Use app timers and reminders
Most phones come with screen time tools pre-installed. You can set app limits, so when the gentle reminder appears, follow through with it. It is very easy to lose track of time scrolling aimlessly. The reminders on your phone keep you mindful and create space for things that make you feel good. In time you will notice yourself reaching for your phone less and enjoying parts of life way more.

Reintroduce offline hobbies
Engage in hobbies that do not require a screen. Try some new recipes, paint, spend time in the garden, play music, or put together a puzzle. These activities allow you to experience your senses again and help your mind take a well-deserved break. Having something enjoyable planned gives you permission to leave your phone behind without the fear of missing out. It all comes down to appreciating the simple things that feel real and anchoring.

—Femina

'Still figuring out who I am'

Actor and model Esther McGregor, who is the daughter of Scottish actor Ewan McGregor, says she is still in the process of discovering who she wants to become as a person.

The 23-year-old actor, best known for her roles in "High School" and "Babygirl", currently stars in Prime Video show "We Were Liars". She plays the role of Mirren Sinclair Sheffield in the drama series, which focuses on the theme of consequences of one's actions.

One year after a mysterious accident left her with amnesia, 17-year-old Cadence returns to Beechwood, an island off Martha's Vineyard, seeking answers. As three generations of the distinguished Sinclair family gather at their private summer utopia, no one will talk about the accident – neither her childhood friends Johnny and Mirren nor her first love Gat, forcing her to uncover the truth herself. McGregor said like her character of Mirren, she too is figuring things out.

"I definitely struggle with the idea of perfection, and I'm still on the journey of figuring out who I want to be as a human," she told PTI in an interview.

In the series, she stars alongside Emily Alyn Lind, Shubham Maheshwari, and Joseph Zada.

The actor added that she tries not to lose herself in the characters. "I think it's effortless (getting into different characters), when you are playing a character, you are just being. That's the most important connection, it is to be yourself, too." —PTI

MODERN LOVE

Sara on dating apps, her idea of a relationship and more

Sara Ali Khan recently starred in the film 'Metro In Dino' where she takes on the role of a woman who is confused between two men.

The actress recently delved into the concept of modern dating Sara Ali Khan on relationships.

Sara spoke about the qualms of dating in the modern world and how "there's a death of love today," in the actress's words. She indicated that she's currently single and is looking for a different person now.

While addressing her past relationships and her experiences in an interview with News18 Showsha, the actress shared that the first thing to pop up in her mind is love languages.

She shared that, "When I think of love and relationships, love languages come to my mind. When you fall in love, you've to understand that people have different and their own ways of expressing something". She also detailed how such a concept of love language may not match for every couple, but the key to a successful one is to understand that everyone is trying to work on themselves and do their best with what they are looking for.

She said she is looking for something different from what she has already experienced. While talking about her reason, the actress shared that, "I've learnt to understand people better. I've cleansed myself out. I'm looking for a different person now. I've grown up now".

Has the 'Simmba' actress been using dating apps? The answer is no. She shared that "I've never used a dating app. Some people use it and it's fine, but I feel that one has to meet to know a person. In a world where everything has become so digital, if meeting a partner also becomes digital, it won't be fun for me".

—ETimes

Dark sides of fashion world

Tapassi is director Spencer Matthew's second movie after Sweet Poison in which veteran actor Girish Karnad played a pivotal role. The director deserves a pat on the back for selecting a subject that conveys the much-needed message to youth addicted to all types of vices. It is claimed the movie is based on a real incident that took place in Bengaluru which is known for pub culture.

The movie is about Tapassi (Ammayra Goswam), a drug addict. Tapassi's well-wishers Rajesh and Rajiv request Prof. Vaidyanath (V Ravichandran) to provide shelter to her. Prof Vaidyanath agrees to Tapassi staying at his house and tries to help her quit alcohol and drugs. It leads to an argument between them and she pushes him down. He is rushed to the hospital for treatment. At this juncture, the director narrates how Tapassi, a prospective model, who wanted to become somebody in the fashion world, ended up as a drug addict. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Prof Vaidyanath succeeds in making Tapassi free from drugs and alcohol.

As far as performances of the actors are concerned, Ammayra deserves appreciation for agreeing to play such a role but she needs to hone her acting skills.

Veteran actor V Ravichandran disappoints his fans by agreeing to play the professor role that has no importance. He appears in a few scenes and we see him either seated in a chair holding a book or lying on a bed in the hospital or vying with the heroine in breaking dinner plates at the dining table. Vinaya Prasad has played a doctor. Gubbi Nataraj, Anusha Kini, and Sachin Wairal provided good support.

It is worth a watch if you want to know the dark sides of the fashion world.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

TAPASSI
2.5 RATING
- **DIRECTOR** Spencer Matthew
- **ACTORS** V Ravichandran, Ammayra Goswami, Vinaya Prasad, Anusha Kini, Gubbi Nataraj
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 126 minutes

Too violent, but not thrilling

With the movie Capital City, director A Anantha Raju makes a comeback after a gap of nine years. Though it was expected that Raju will come out with a good entertainer, he has failed to live up to audiences' expectations. The quality of the script shows the director has failed to feel the pulse of the audiences. The plot of the movie - microfinance and underworld activities - is like old wine in a new bottle.

The movie is about Dhanapal (Ravi Shankar P), an underworld don, who wants to take revenge against an unknown person for attacking his brother Chandru. Dhanapal demands the Police Commissioner take action against those responsible for attacking his brother. Meanwhile, Anuradha (Prerana Kambam), the daughter of an entrepreneur, meets Prithvi (Rajeev Reddy) and instantly falls in love with him. He tries to discourage her but in vain.

Dhanapal comes to know that Prithvi has attacked his brother Chandru. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback narrating who Prithvi is and how he became Dhanapal's enemy. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Dhanapal.

Rajvee Reddy, who plays the lead, is convincing as an angry young man but he has to hone his acting skills if he wants to establish himself as an actor in Sandalwood. He is good in action scenes but looks stoic in romantic and sentimental scenes. Prerana Kambam has only one emotion -- she becomes ecstatic at the drop of a hat irrespective of the location - whether it be a temple or a hospital. Ravi Shankar P, as usual, is seen yelling in most of the scenes. Suman makes a brief appearance. KS Sridhar and Sharath Lohitashwa provide good support.

The director should have reduced the movie's runtime by around 20 minutes by removing nauseating comedy scenes and an item song that serve no purpose.

It is worth a watch if you are okay with action-filled movies. —Y Maheswara Reddy

CAPITAL CITY
2.0 RATING
- **DIRECTOR** A Anantha Raju
- **ACTORS** Rajeev Reddy, Prerana Kambam, Ravi Shankar P, Sharath Lohitashwa, Suman, Padma Vasanthi
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 143 minutes

Man ends life over betting losses

A 27-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after losing money through online betting, in an incident that unfolded near Madavara Lake in Bengaluru North taluk on Thursday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Ravindra, a resident of Byregowda Nahalli village. He was employed at Biocon. According to police officials, Ravindra had become distressed after incurring financial losses from online betting, which may have driven him to take the extreme step.

His body was discovered in Madavara Lake on Wednesday evening. Upon receiving information, residents assisted the police in retrieving the body from the water. It was later sent to the Nelamangala Government Hospital for post-mortem examination, and the body was handed over to his family on Friday morning.

According to sources, Ravindra's family and friends were reportedly unaware of the extent of his involvement in betting platforms. Madanayakanahalli Police have registered a case.

House set on fire over loan dispute

A house was set on fire in a suspected murder attempt over a loan dispute in Viveknagar on Tuesday, around 5.30 PM. Subramani, a relative of the victims Mohandas and Venkataramani, is accused of starting the fire.

According to police, the fire was reportedly triggered by a dispute over an unpaid loan of ₹5 lakh. Nearly eight years ago, Parvathy had borrowed the money from Venkataramani to fund her daughter Mahalakshmi's wedding. Despite several reminders, the loan was never repaid.

Recently, during a wedding function, Venkataramani reminded Parvathy about the loan, which allegedly enraged her. Investigations reveal that Parvathy, along with her younger brother Subramani, conspired to eliminate Venkataramani and her family.

On Tuesday evening, Subramani reportedly brought a bottle of petrol and poured it around the house before setting it on fire. As neighbours raised an alarm, Mohandas and Venkataramani managed to escape in time and save their lives.

A case has been registered at Viveknagar Police Station based on his complaint, and investigations are underway. Police are searching for Subramani and Parvathy, who are absconding. No casualties were reported in the incident.

Slow burn on the fringes of Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

inspection has also been a contributing factor in these recurring mishaps.

Over 20,000 warehouses in the area

Sources said that across Peenya in Bengaluru and areas of Bengaluru Rural district such as Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, and Hoskote, there are over 2,200 small and medium-scale industries, and more than 52 large industries. The region is home to over 20,000 warehouses being used for industrial, agricultural, and logistics storage purposes.

These industrial zones witness over 1,000 fire-related incidents each year, resulting in losses worth crores of rupees. Many of these could have been prevented if proper safety measures were in place. According to fire station officials, most taluks have only one fire station with two to three vehicles. If two are under repair, a single vehicle with a handful of personnel is forced to cover a 40-km radius. Often, fire crews reach the site only to find no water available. Warehouses and factories fail to provide water

tanks or storage as mandated by fire safety norms.

Alarming negligence

Sources said that electrical short circuits or small sparks often escalate due to the complete absence of firefighting equipment in warehouses and factories. Despite existing regulations, preventive measures are widely ignored. Social activist Madhu notes that local bodies issue approvals even when safety protocols are unmet, contributing to large-scale disasters.

According to an official from the fire department, nearly 85% of factories and warehouses do not have fire extinguishing systems installed, allowing fires to spread rapidly. A recent major fire broke out at a warehouse near Nelamangala owned by a local politician, where no safety precautions had been followed.

Senior officers including district commissioners, tahsildars, industry department officials, fire brigade heads, and police often visit accident sites after the incident. There is little to no evidence of proactive inspections or safety audits conducted beforehand. "Many warehouses and factories are reportedly owned by elected representatives themselves, who are among the worst offenders in violating safety norms. As a result, accountability is absent, and public safety continues to be compromised," a fire department official said.

POCSO case filed against salesman

A 20-year-old salesman in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of a 7-year-old girl has been arrested by Bagalgunte police. The accused has been identified as Mohammed Haji, a resident of Dasarahalli and a native of Tiruvehalli, Tamil Nadu.

The incident reportedly occurred in Dasarahalli on Thursday night around 8.15 pm when the first-standard student visited Haji's provision store to purchase snacks. According to police, Haji, who was alone in the shop, allegedly lured the girl into the godown under the pretext of retrieving chips and then inappropriately touched her.

The victim informed her parents about the incident, prompting them to immediately file a complaint with the Bagalgunte police. Authorities acted promptly, apprehending Haji shortly after the complaint was lodged.

Mohammed Haji, who has been living in Bengaluru for the past two years and works as a salesperson, has been booked under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. He has since been remanded to judicial custody as investigations continue.

Bus-scooter crash kills woman

A 61-year-old woman lost her life and her husband was injured after a speeding private bus rammed into their scooter near the Benniganahalli railway bridge on Old Madras Road on Friday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Menaka, a housewife and resident of Narayanapura. Her husband, Mahadev, sustained minor injuries in the crash.

According to the Mahadevapura Traffic Police, the incident occurred around 8 am when the couple was heading towards Indiranagar on their scooter. As they were passing near the railway bridge, a private bus hit their vehicle from the side. The impact caused both to fall off the scooter, and the rear wheel of the bus ran over Menaka, killing her instantly.

Mahadev, who was riding the scooter, escaped with minor injuries.

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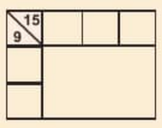
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

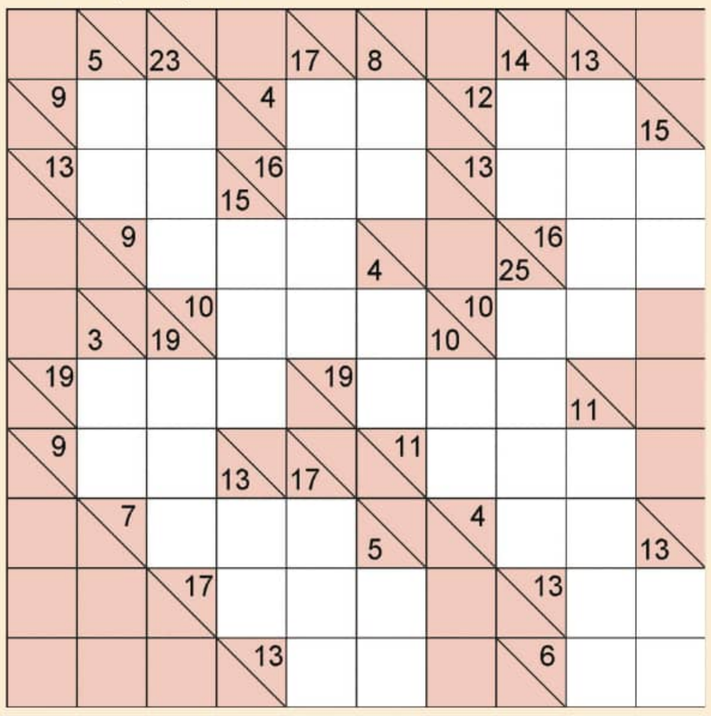
5^0 + 5^1 x 5^0 + 5^0! ÷ 5^0 =

Kakuro

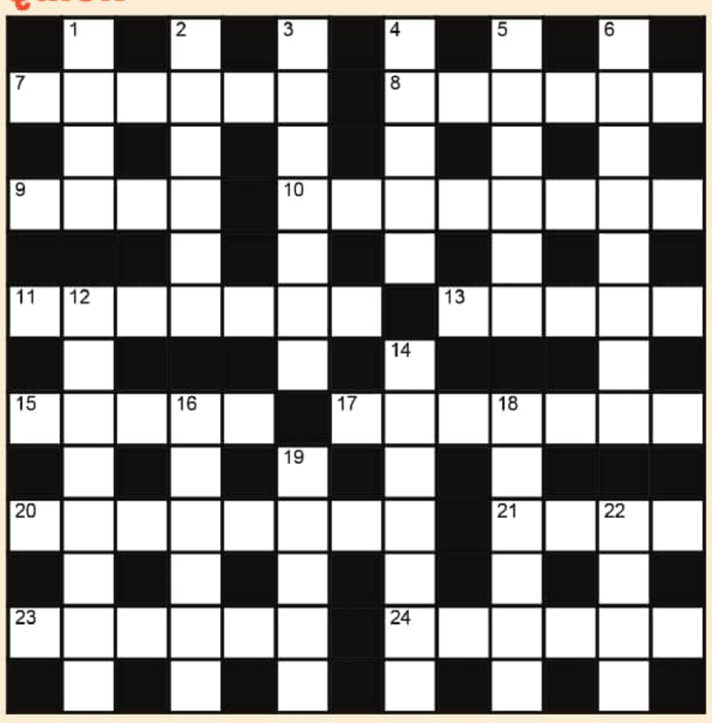
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Friendlier (6)
8 Decorates (6)
9 Request for permission (3,1)
10 Rolled about in mud? (8)
11 Favoured, beholden or duty bound? (7)
13 Avoid out of fear (5)
15 Baby beds (5)
17 Cherished prizes for the bowlers? (7)
20 Where in Karnataka Shiravati River drops 253 meters (3,5)
21 Makes a mistake (4)
23 Withdraw from a political federation (6)
24 Scottish landlords (6)

DOWN

1 Nadal's nickname (4)
2 Two-piece swimsuit (6)
3 Spoke with drawn out vowel sounds (7)
4 Follows or shadows (5)
5 Bring __ ____ : make person answer for conduct? (2,4)
6 Covertly (2,6)
12 Debtor (8)
14 Primarily or at the beginning (7)
16 Self-serve meal (6)
18 Imprison (4,2)
19 Narrow street (5)
22 Went on horseback (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS T

LQD RODVLDML NYUTM VOD KVJVCID HZ LQD RODVLDML WYKDM VM BDII VM HZ LQD RODVLDML WYOLADM.

Linemaro

This morning I saw a beautiful flower, and thought of you

Mindchow

We should consider every day lost on which we have not danced at least once

Joke of the day

The boomerang is Australia's chief export (and then import)

Loop

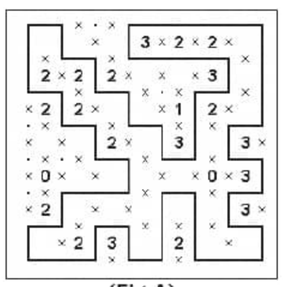
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

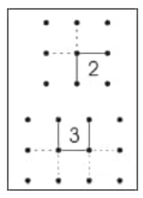
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

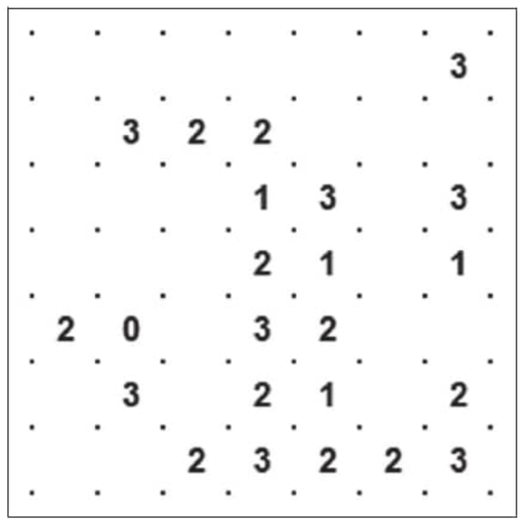
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



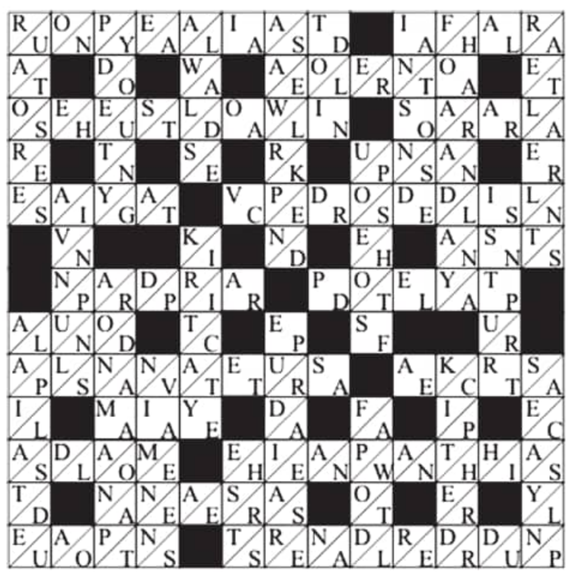
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



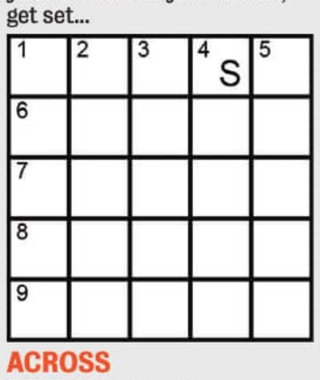
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

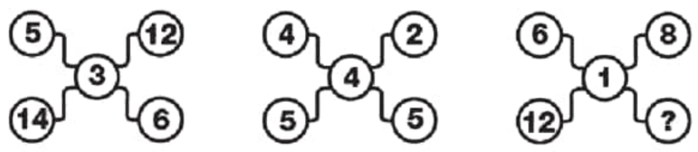
1 S Hals; 6 He tit;
7 Ham go; 8 Nu Awe;
9 Sperm

DOWN

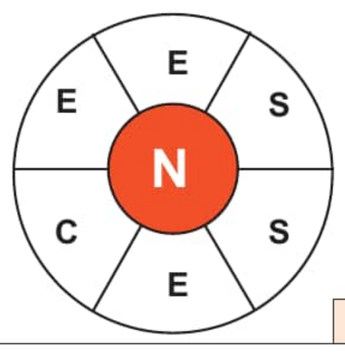
1 Pouts; 2 Ingle;
3 Arhat; 4 Whams;
5 She me

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2								5
8	6			3			4	7
		9				1		
		8	6	4	3	7		
4			9		1			8
		1	8	2	7	9		
		7				6		
9	8			6			1	3
1								2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

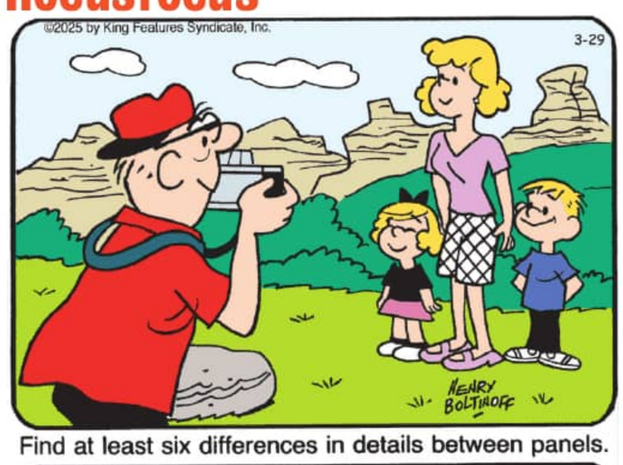
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4
1 4 8 9

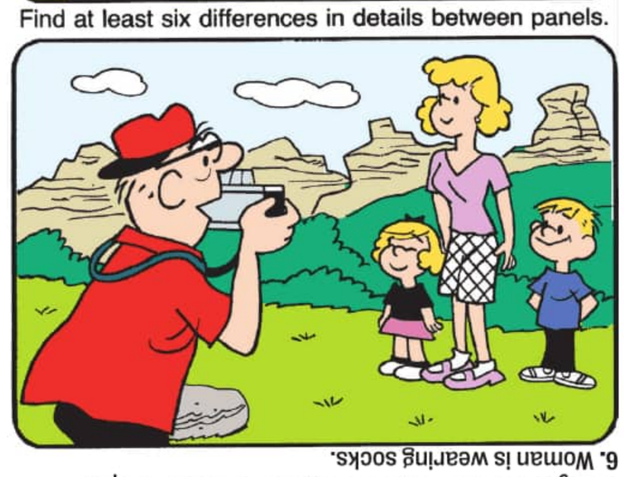
Medium = 40
3 4 7 9

Hard = 20
2 3 5 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Camera strap is thinner. 2. Bow is smaller. 3. Boy is moved. 4. Rock is smaller. 5. Mouth is open. 6. Woman is wearing socks.

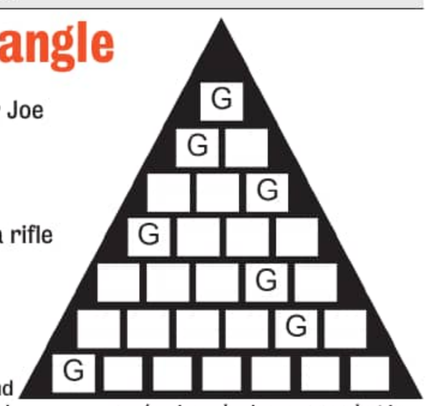
Riddler

Each of the following clues describes two words. One of the words is a type of fruit. The other word is that fruit with one of the following changes: a letter added anywhere (apple applet), a letter deleted anywhere (orange range), or a letter changed anywhere (cheery cherry). There is no rearrangement of the other letters. No fruit is used more than once.

1) This is a devilish fruit. 2) This is a crippled fruit. 3) This is a happy fruit. 4) This is a criminal fruit. 5) This is a large fruit.

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 American soldier Joe
3 Manipulate
4 Smile broadly
5 Rule
6 Outskirt
7 Discharge from a rifle

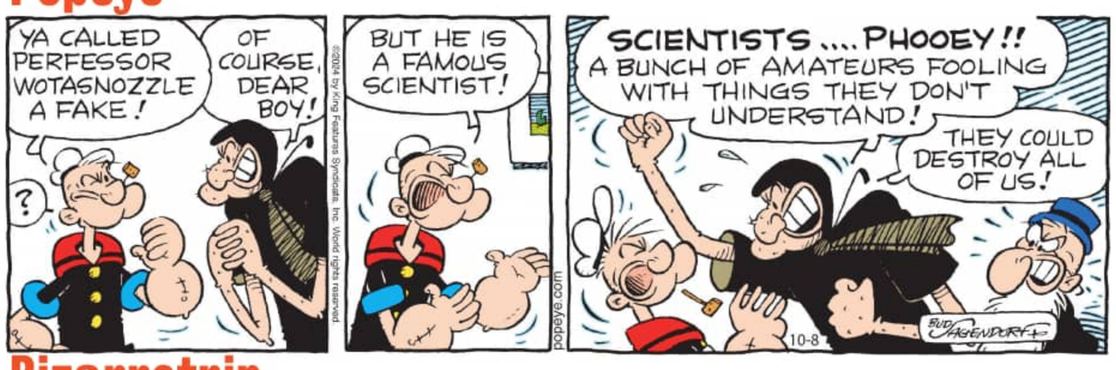


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YA CALLED PERFESSOR WOTASNOZZLE A FAKE!
OF COURSE, DEAR BOY!
?
BUT HE IS A FAMOUS SCIENTIST!
SCIENTISTS .... PHOOEY!! A BUNCH OF AMATEURS FOOLING WITH THINGS THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND!
THEY COULD DESTROY ALL OF US!
BUD SAGENDORF
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HEY, SURLI, HOW CAN I GET A GIRL TO FLY INTO MY ARMS?
OK, HERE'S WHAT I FOUND...
DATE A STUNT PILOT
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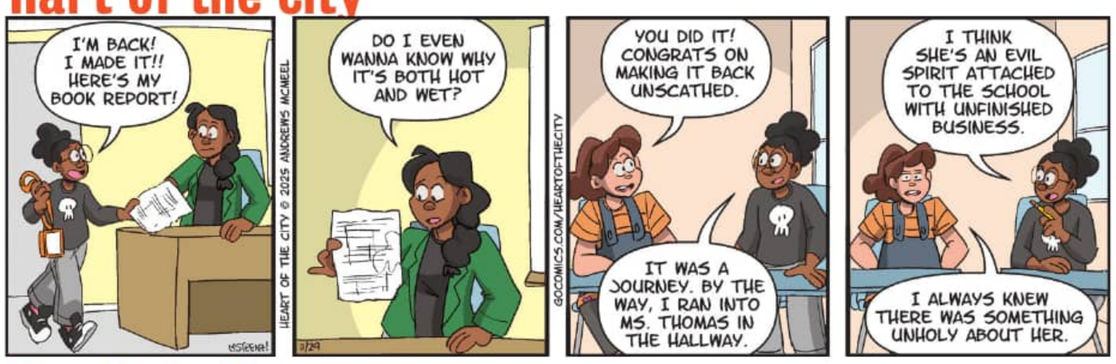
Hart of the city


I'M BACK! I MADE IT!! HERE'S MY BOOK REPORT!
DO I EVEN WANNA KNOW WHY IT'S BOTH HOT AND WET?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
YOU DID IT! CONGRATS ON MAKING IT BACK UNSCATHED.
IT WAS A JOURNEY. BY THE WAY, I RAN INTO MS. THOMAS IN THE HALLWAY.
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
I THINK SHE'S AN EVIL SPIRIT ATTACHED TO THE SCHOOL WITH UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING UNHOLY ABOUT HER.

Crankshaft

IT'S SOMEHOW COMFORTING TO GET TOGETHER LIKE THIS AND DISCUSS OUR INFIRMITIES.
I KNOW... THE OLDER WE GET, THE MORE WE NEED EACH OTHER.
WE'RE A BAND-AID OF BROTHERS!
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3-29
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

You may be actively engaged with family or friends today, possibly attending a party or movie outing. Mutual respect between partners will strengthen your domestic life. Disputes in partnerships may be resolved. Students should act quickly on career-related decisions. Lovebirds could take a significant step toward marriage.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Work life looks promising. Your rapport with your boss will improve, and you'll successfully manage rivals. Recovery of pending payments is likely, boosting liquidity and strengthening your financial position.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

You may be focused on your children's well-being. Their health is likely to improve, and you could begin planning their academic future. Couples may welcome a new child. Your presence of mind will help resolve conflicts in both professional and personal spheres.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

A sense of disappointment or distraction may cloud your thoughts. Surround yourself with positivity and avoid negative influences. You may consider relocating. Job seekers could find suitable opportunities. Students should stay patient. Singles may encounter someone promising.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

High energy and focus define your day. Your professional network will help expand your business. Trust your instincts when investing in fixed assets. Emotional bonds with your spouse will strengthen, and singles may meet a potential partner through friends or siblings.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

After a busy few days with loved ones, you may feel drained. Your children's health or academics may require attention. To maintain harmony, be mindful of your words and avoid ego clashes at home.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Exercise caution while signing important documents—read thoroughly to avoid mistakes caused by excitement. Support from your boss is likely, and a promotion may be on the horizon. Lovebirds should avoid discussing sensitive family topics to maintain peace.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You may feel dull or impatient today. Avoid harsh self-criticism and stay clear of fantasy-driven plans at work. Monitor your rivals carefully. Postpone new investments and prioritize the well-being of your mother and elders.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Favorable results are on the way. Recovery of bad debts or gains from inherited property may strengthen your finances. Previously incurred losses may turn into gains. Relationships with loved ones will improve, and students will feel confident in their career choices.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

A busy and productive workday is ahead. Important decisions could lead to major business growth. A large deal or order may materialize. Disputes with your spouse may be resolved, restoring domestic peace.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

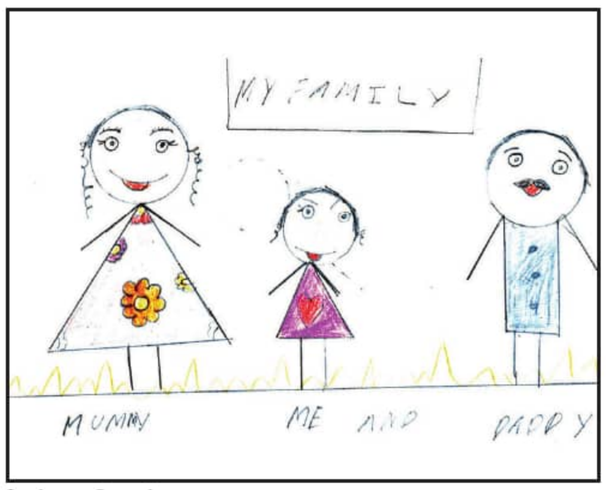
Elders' blessings will bring positivity and spiritual insight. You may visit a religious place with loved ones or seek guidance from a mentor. Singles might meet their soulmate. Lovebirds will enjoy peaceful and joyful moments together.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

A low mood or unexplained fear might trouble you. Consider visiting a religious place or chanting prayers to regain clarity. Stay alert to hidden enemies or business rivals. Lovebirds should avoid petty arguments to preserve harmony.

KIDZONE

Sanya Pasha, Bengaluru



Sanjanna, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

1 + 5 x 1 + 5 ÷ 1 =
1 + 5 + 5/1 =
6 + 5/1 =
(6 + 5)/1 =
11/1 = 11

BULL'S EYE

ESSENCE, scene, seen, sense

STRIKE OUT

R	O	Y	A	L	I	S	T		A	F	A	R		
	A		O		A	O	R	T	A			E		
S	H	U	T	D	O	W	N		O	R	A	L		
E		N		E	R		U	N	A			E		
S	A	G	A		V	E	R	S	E	D	I	N		
	N			K		D		E		A	N	T		
N	A	D	I	R		P	O	L	Y	P				
L	U	D		T		P		F			U			
P	L	A	N	T	E	R	S		A	C	T	S		
	L		M	A	Y		A		I			C		
A	D	A	M		H	I	A	W	A	T	H	A		
T		N	E	A	R	S		O		E		L		
	N	E		S			S	E	A	L	E	D	U	P

FAST FIVE

S	L	A	S	H

QUOTE UNCODE

The greatest minds are capable of the greatest vices as well as of the greatest virtues.

QUICK

		R		B		D		T		T		I		
M	A	T	I	E	R		A		D	O	R	N	S	
		F		K		A		I		B		S		
M	A	Y		I		W	A	L	L	O	W	E	D	
			N			L		S		O		C		
O	B	L	I	G	E	D		S	K	I	R	T		
		O				D		F			E			
C	R	I	B	S		W	I	C	K	E	T	S		
		R		U		A		R		E				
J	O	G	F	A	L	L	S		E	R	R	S		
		W		F		L		T		P		O		
S	E	C	E	D	E		L		A	I	R	D	S	
	R		T		Y		Y			N		E		

RIDDLER

1) demon lemon,
2) lame lime,
3) merry berry,
4) felon melon,
5) big fig

MENSA PUZZLE

3. In each diagram, the sum of the top two and middle digits equals the sum of the lower 2 digits.

SUDOKU

2	1	3	4	7	6	8	9	5
8	6	5	1	3	9	2	4	7
7	4	9	2	8	5	1	3	6
5	9	8	6	4	3	7	2	1
4	7	2	9	5	1	3	6	8
6	3	1	8	2	7	9	5	4
3	2	7	5	1	4	6	8	9
9	8	4	7	6	2	5	1	3
1	5	6	3	9	8	4	7	2

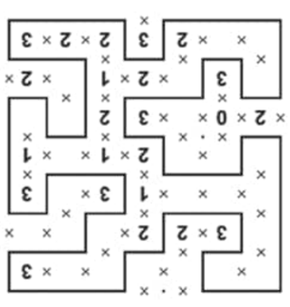
ALPHA TRIANGLE

G, GI, RIg, Grin, Reign, Fringe, Gunfire.

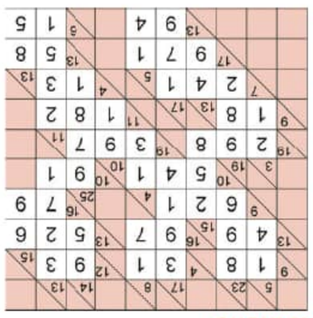
GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 8 + 1 − 9 = 4
Medium
4 x 7 + 9 + 3 = 40
Hard
3 x 9 − 2 − 5 = 20

LOOP



KAKURO



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